

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 251345Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7070

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 1035

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, MU

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO TRANSFER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO MAURITANIA

1. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME MORNING
FEBRUARY 25. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REQUEST FROM
MAURITANIA FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND KING HAD DECIDED
TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO ASSIST.

2. MAURITANIA HAS REQUESTED FOLLOWING MILITARY EQUIPMENT:

- A. 5,000 7.62 MM AUTOMATIC RIFLES;
- B. 2,000 7.62 MM SUBMACHINE GUNS;
- C. 1,000 7.62 MM MACHINE GUNS;
- D. 500 .50 CALIBER HEAVY MACHINE GUNS;
- E. 10 MILLION 7.62 MM ROUNDS FOR AUTOMATIC RIFLES;
- F. 5 MILLJ
*7.62 MM ROUNDS FOR SUBMACHINE GUNS;
- G. 20 MILLION 7.62 ROUNDS FOR MACHINE GUNS;
- H. 5 MILLION .50 CALIBER ROUNDS FOR MACHINE GUNS;
- I. 20,000 HAND GRENADES;
- J. 10,000 ANTI-TANK MINES
- K. 10,000 ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES;
- L. 2 BATTERIES OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS OF ANY KIND;
- M. 2 BATTERIES OF FIELD GUNS OF ANY KIND;

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N. 1 BATTERY OF 4.2 INCH HEAVY MORTARS;

- O. 18 81 MM MORTARS;
- P. AMMUNITION FOR ARTILLERY AND MORTARS (PARAS L-O)

3. RIFAI SAID MAURITANIANS ARE IN BAD SHAPE AND HAVE NO FUNDS WITH WHICH TO BUY ANYTHING. HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON JORDAN'S FIRM RECOMMENDATION THAT WE DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP MAURITANIA. I SAID I WOULD DO SO.

4. RIFAI SAID THAT IN ADDITION THE KING HAS DECIDED TO PROVIDE MAURITANIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT AS A GIFT:

- A. 5,000 M-1 RIFLES;
- B. 500 0.30 SUBMACHINE GUNS (M-1 CARBINES);
- C. 150 0.30 MEDIUM MACHINE GUNS;
- TOF. 1 MILLION ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FOR THE M-1 RIFLES;
- E. 120,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FOR THE M-1 CARBINES;
- F. 240,000 ROUNDS FOR THE 0.30 MEDIUM MACHINE GUNS;
- G. 6 4.2 INCH MORTARS;
- H. 6 25 PDR FIELD GUNS;
- I. 18 40 MM ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS, (L-60);
- J. 1,500 ROUNDS 4.2 MORTAR AMMUNITION;
- K. 1,500 ROUNDS 25 PDR AMMUNITION;
- L. 20,000 ROUNDS 40 MM AMMUNITION.

4. I REMINDED RIFAI THAT ANY EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NO-TRANSFER ASSURANCES AND US PERMISSION WOULD HAVE TO BE REQUESTED. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, AND I COULD TAKE HIS ORAL REQUEST IN THIS CASE AS AUTHORITATIVE. IN TURN I URGED HIM TO ASK THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF JORDAN ARMED FORCES TO PROVIDE THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE WITH A LIST OF EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN WHICH JORDAN PROPOSED TO TRANSFER. RIFAI SAID HE WOULD DO SO. I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED THE DEFENSE ATTACHE TO SEEK OUT CINC JAF FOR SUCH A LIST (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL).

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

- A. WHEN DEFINITIVE LIST IS RECEIVED FROM CINC
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JAF, TREAT SUCH AS AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR TRANSFER ASSURANCES AND PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER.

- B. PROVIDE ME WITH A RESPONSE FOR PRIME MINISTER RIFAI AND KING ON FORMER'S REQUEST THAT WE DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO PROVIDE HELP TO MAURITANIA IN LIGHT OF MAURITANIA'S ALLEGED INABILITY TO PURCHASE MILITARY

EQUIPMENT FRO US.
PICKERING

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NNN

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